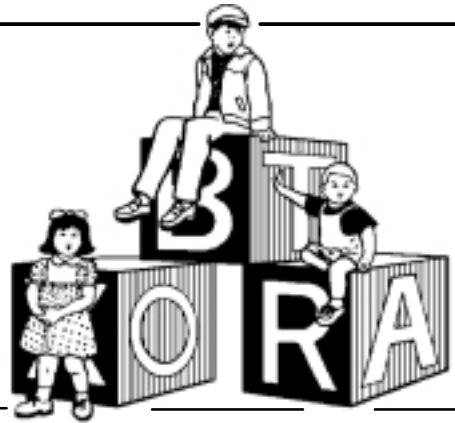


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries.



North Dakota Department of Health

Summer 2000

Division of Maternal and Child Health

Operation S.O.S. *Safe Online Shopping*

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has launched Operation S.O.S.—Safe Online Shopping—to find recalled, illegal and potentially hazardous consumer products sold on the World Wide Web. CPSC recalls include products sold in both traditional stores and online, but this new initiative concentrates on the growing number of products for sale in cyberspace.

CPSC has developed a “War Room” where CPSC investigators will monitor the Internet for possibly dangerous and illegal consumer products. Using non-government credit cards, anonymous shipping addresses, and computers and telephone lines that can’t be traced back to the government, these experts pose as consumers and shop for items that could be dangerous to consumers. The items purchased are then examined and tested for compliance with federal safety standards. Operation S.O.S. monitors retail sites and product-related

news groups on the Internet.

CPSC already has found dangerous products being sold online, including:

- ◆ Flammable children’s sleepwear.
- ◆ Prescription drugs without child-resistant packaging.
- ◆ Children’s jackets with drawstrings that pose a strangulation hazard.
- ◆ Mini-hammocks without spreader bars that pose a strangulation hazard.
- ◆ Cigarette lighters without child-resistant mechanisms.

Because the popularity of online shopping has skyrocketed, CPSC wants to make sure all products Americans purchase are as safe as possible—whether purchased at the local mall or in cyberspace.

K2 In-Line Skates Recalled

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), K2 Corp. is recalling about 12,000 “Flight ALX” brand in-line skates. The skate’s plastic brake mount could crack and fail, causing the skater to fall and suffer serious injury.

The skates are the Flight ALX brand with model number S00161 or S00162 manufactured before Nov. 20, 1999. The brand name and model number are on the skate’s tongue and the manufacturing

date is stamped in the heel of the skate, on the footbed. Women’s skates are maroon and silver in sizes 4 through 11; men’s skates are gray and orange in sizes 5 through 14. Sporting goods stores nationwide sold the skates from August 1999 through November 1999.

Consumers should stop using the skates immediately and return them to the store where purchased for free replacement skates. For more information call K2 Corp. at 800.426.1617.

Kolcraft Car Seats Recalled

Kolcraft Enterprises is recalling about 754,000 infant car seats/carriers for repair. When used as an infant carrier, the handle can unexpectedly move from the intended carrying position, causing the seat to rotate suddenly. When this happens, the infant can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries.

There have been more than 3,000 reports of handle-related problems, the majority of which report that the handle of the infant car seat/carrier unexpectedly moved from the intended use position, resulting in 42 injuries to infants. Some of the infants were restrained in the carrier and some were not. Injuries ranged from a skull fracture and concussions to cuts, scrapes and bruises.

The recall involves Kolcraft infant car seat/carriers manufactured from Jan. 1, 1993, through June 30, 1999, with the model names Infant Rider, Secura, Travel-About, Plus 4, Plus 5, Kolcraft Infant Restraint, Kolcraft Infant Car Seat and Playskool Infant Car Seat

The five-digit model/style number and manufacture date, written as month/day/year, and possibly the model name are written on a label on the side of the seat. If the first digits of the model/style number on your seat match the following list, it is subject to this recall.



Model/Style Number Series of Recalled Kolcraft Car Seat/Carriers:

1312X	1382X
1384X	1385X
368XX	43XXX
7700X	

Consumers should not carry the seat by the handle until it has been repaired. For a free repair kit or for more information, call Kolcraft toll-free at 877.776.2609.

Burger King Pokemon Balls Recalled



Burger King is voluntarily recalling more than 25 million Pokemon balls that were included with Burger King kids meals. The balls may pose a suffocation hazard to

children younger than age 3. Pokemon balls are the ball-shaped plastic containers that hold Pokemon toys in Burger King kids meals. Either half of the Pokemon ball can become stuck on a child's face, covering the nose and mouth, and may cause suffocation of a child younger than 3.

Two children have died due to the Pokemon balls. A 13-month-old girl reportedly suffocated when one-half of a Pokemon ball covered her nose and mouth. A 4-month-old boy reportedly suffocated when one-half of a ball that was in his crib became stuck on his face. An 18-month-old girl reportedly also had a ball-half stuck over her face, causing distress. The girl's father was able to remove it on the second attempt.

Burger King restaurants nationwide distributed the Pokemon balls inside Burger King Kids Club Meals and regular kids meals from early November through December 1999. Consumers immediately should take the balls away from children younger than 3. They should discard the ball or return both halves to Burger King for a free small order of french fries.

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Backpack Child Carrier Recalled

Kelty is recalling for repair about 26,000 Kelty K.I.D.S. backpack child carriers. The seat height-adjustment strap on these carriers can slip out of the buckle. A child can slide downward in the seat unexpectedly and could fall out of the carrier.

There are six models of these Kelty K.I.D.S. backpack carriers: Expedition, Trek, Explorer, Country, Elite, and Town. The model name is written on the side of the carrier. The carriers are blue and have the Kelty K.I.D.S. logo on the seat's back. Kelty also manufactured a carrier that L.L. Bean sold under its

"L.L. KIDS" label; the carrier has the "Kelty" logo on the black frame hinge that connects the kickstand to the main frame.

Specialty and sporting good retailers—including L.L. Bean, REI and Eastern Mountain Sports—sold the recalled backpack carriers nationwide from March 1999 through December 1999. Consumers should stop using the backpack carriers immediately and contact Kelty for instructions on getting the free repair kit. For more information, consumers should call Kelty at 800.423.2320.

Jogging Strollers Recalled

CPSC and InSTEP LLC are recalling about 44,000 jogging strollers. The stroller's brake can fail, which causes the stroller to roll away unexpectedly, resulting in injury to a child.

The recall involves InSTEP and HEALTHRIDER brand single and double jogging strollers manufactured from December 1998 through July 1999 with the model numbers ZS100, ZD200, ZS100WS, ZD200WS, ZS100HR, ZD200HR, PR100 or PR200. The manufacturing date, written as T "month" R "year" I, is located on a sticker on the lower cross tube (for example T01R991 is January 1999). "InSTEP" is printed on the front of the stroller. HEALTHRIDER model numbers ZS100HR and ZD200HR have a blue and gray seat, and blue canopy. "Health rider" is printed on the top and front of the stroller.

Burlington Coat Factory, J.C. Penney, HEALTH-RIDER, The Sports Authority and Target stores nationwide, among others, sold the strollers from December 1998 through July 1999 as single and double joggers.

Consumers should stop using the strollers immediately and contact InSTEP LLC to receive a free, easy-to-install repair kit. For more information, call InSTEP LLC at 800.242.6110, or access the company's website at www.instep.net.



Is Your Child Exposed to Lead?

Lead is poisonous to a human body. A common metal, lead can be found in the plumbing or paint in older homes, dust, tap water, glazed pottery, dirt, older toys, etc. Lead content in residential paint, a common source of poisoning, was reduced steadily beginning in the 1950s and was banned completely in 1978. As a result, paint manufactured during this time generally contains a reduced level of lead, and residential paint manufactured after 1978 contains no lead.

The long-term effects of lead exposure can be severe for a child. They include learning disabilities, decreased

growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing and even brain damage. If caught early, these effects can be limited by reducing exposure to lead or by medical treatment.

How to Prevent Your Child From Getting Lead Poisoning

- ✓ Keep your child from eating paint chips, dust or dirt. Clean them up with a wet mop or wet cloth.
- ✓ Have your child wash his or her hands after playing outside and before meals and bedtime.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

- ✓ Wash your child's toys often.
- ✓ If you work around lead, avoid bringing lead dust into your home.
- ✓ Run the water until it's as cold as it can get (for at least two minutes). Do this before you first use it in the morning.
- ✓ Give your child a diet rich in calcium and iron.

Some good sources are milk, green leafy vegetables, bread, cereal and meat.

- ✓ Have your home checked for lead before you remodel.

If you feel your child has been exposed to lead, talk to your physician. A simple blood test can determine your child's blood lead level.

Retailers Promoting Safe Bedding

To prevent deaths from soft bedding, seven major retailers are joining the CPSC in kicking off a safety campaign that promotes safe bedding practices for babies. As many as 900 baby deaths each year attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) actually may be caused by suffocation in soft bedding, such as quilts, comforters, pillows and sheepskins.

Babies "R" Us, IKEA, JC Penney, Kmart, Land's End, Sears and Target are making changes to crib displays in retail stores, catalogs, advertisements and websites. Beginning this spring, shoppers no longer will see cribs made up with pillows, quilts and comforters. To caution against the use of soft bedding for young babies, many retailers will include statements in their catalogs, on signs attached to cribs and on inserts that accompany baby comforters and quilts.

For babies younger than 12 months, the CPSC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends

the following to help reduce the risk of SIDS:

- ◆ Place baby on his or her back on a firm, tight-fitting mattress in a crib that meets current safety standards.
- ◆ Remove pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like stuffed toys and other pillow-like soft products from the crib.
- ◆ Consider using a sleeper with no other covering as an alternative to blankets.
- ◆ If using a blanket, put baby with his or her feet at the foot of the crib. Tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress, only as far as the baby's chest.
- ◆ Make sure your baby's head remains uncovered during sleep.
- ◆ Do not place baby on a waterbed, sofa, soft mattress, pillow or other soft surface to sleep.

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